

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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PRICE, ONE PENNY.

The Reign of Fat.

"It doesn't matter a curse to me,"
Says Fat, with his money bags,
"That Profit is mother of Poverty,
And Riches allied to Rags."
"Ye Poor, that live like a herd of swine,
In slum and in hovel pent,
The slum and the hovel, of course, are mine,
And also, of course, the rent."
"Your children go to the sweeper's hell,
Your girls to a life of sin;
What matter, as long as it pays me well,
And profits come pouring in."
"So be content, for if Providence,"
Says Fat, with his bloated purse,
"Gives pounds to me, and to you but pence,
Tis wicked to kick or curse."
But if for a moment could be unrolled
The veil for the coming years,
He'd cover in terror his god of gold,
And shriek in his selfish fears
For Justice strains at her moneyed chains—
And Mercy is making good,
And Love is evolving in many brains
The Kingdom of Brotherhood,
When work shall enoble, and not degrade,
And Wealth shall give way to Worth,
And Fat and his villainous, soulless trade,
Shall vanish from off the earth.
And men, who are Men, and are brave and
just,
Shall banish distress and strife,
And People's freedom from the bonds of lust,
Will walk in the paths of Life.

FROSTY.

The Passing Show.

Truth is the most radical thing on earth.

The more a man leans to the truth the further he get away from the old political parties.

A survey of history leads to the conclusion that things are not as they used to be.

That which was reviled but yesterday is an accomplished fact to-day.

The whole world moves. To stand still means decay and death.

To-day we have no rights where they conflict with profits. Tomorrow profits will be a thing of the past.

Out of evil cometh good. Out of the profit system cometh the Trust. Out of the Trust will come co-operation and mutual aid.

The Trusts have already done one waste under competition is unnecessary.

The Trust destroys competition between companies of capitalists, but leaves the workers in the mire of economic poverty.

The old parties are discussing the Trusts but fruitlessly. Their remedies would leave the worker in his poverty, and the idler in his luxury.

As Professor Ray Edmunds says: "Socialism will lift the poor out of the economic mire of poverty, and the rich out of the spiritual mire of luxury."

Beware of the daily paper, for it circulates everywhere seeking those it may corrupt. Its patriotism is false, and its nationalism is a barrier between brothers. Its teachings lead to sorrow, sickness, filth, worry, jealousy, envy, bitterness, and much of the misery and poverty that afflicts humanity come from the ignorance it carefully cultivates.

During the present Federal elections the daily papers dishonestly refer to the Labor Party as the "Socialist Party," with the double object of discrediting the Labor Party and the Socialist Party.

By referring to the Labor Party as the "Socialist Party," the press saddles Socialism with the sins of the Labor Party, and having thus discredited Socialism, it uses it to blacken the Labor Party.

Socialism has nothing in common with Laborism which stands for conscription,



The National Shoemaker at Work

compulsory arbitration, and Nationalisation of the Trusts, with compensation.

The press frequently refers to "Industrial unrest," but it never by any chance tells the truth about it. "Industrial unrest" is really the result of the workers being eaten alive by parasites.

The Capitalists, through the press deny workers the right to strike for better conditions, and when they suicide to get out of the hurt, denounce suicide as a crime. The worker must not live, and he must not die. What is the poor man to do?

One thing the worker can, and should do, he should study Socialism and learn to discredit the stories of the press.

In defending an early attempt at Socialism, Isaiah, referring to Socialists, said: "They helped every one his neighbor, and everyone said to his brother, 'Be of good courage.'"

The "Westralian Worker" says: "The Goddess of Dawn stands behind her lovely curtain of pearl-drops, known as Pride of the Morning, ready to make her appearance before Australia on May 31." We heard the same story of her coming three years ago, and when she came, she brought some dead sea fruit with her.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Melbourne, said in his presidential address, at the annual meeting:

"We should indeed, be grateful, and to me it does seem so particularly sad and so hard to understand, that when Providence is so good to us, and when so much has been done for the workers in the shape of arbitration courts, wages boards, and general increased wages, that strikes and industrial troubles should be so rife. It would almost appear that it is the very fact of prosperity that is accountable; it is on this score alone that I look to the future with some distrust and dismay. When riches are being showered upon us with an open hand, it does seem foolish not to say wicked, to neglect our opportunities. The turn must come some day, and distress must follow in its wake. I can only express the hope that wiser counsels will prevail before the consequences of such

wilful and foolish actions make themselves felt."

The president, in crediting Providence with showering good things on us fails to see that strikes and industrial troubles should be credited to the same quarter, though he says: "It would almost appear that it is the very fact of prosperity that is accountable." According to the president's logic Providence is making the worker prosperous and rebellious.

Packer, General Secretary, Australian Workers' Federation, in a letter to the "Age" 26/4/13, says: "By disfranchising men who come out on strike it would certainly be more stringent a punishment than a small fine, which is paid in instalments of so much a week by the men when it is imposed." So it would, and the ancient practice of cutting off one ear would be more stringent still. Packer should have lived in the good old times, when he might have had the pleasure of cutting strikers' ears off. The only thing that might have marred Packer's pleasure had he lived in those strenuous times, would be the certainty that somebody would soon have had Packer's nose in his pocket.

Andrew Carnegie, in opening the fourth annual Peace Congress, at St. Louis, recently, referred sarcastically to the American army and navy, and the ease tranquility enjoyed by those in the two services. He pool-pooled the idea that any of the powers had the slightest desire to go to war with America, and declared that "there would never be occasion for war if the United States treated all countries with justice and friendliness." Wall-street financiers will begin to hate their old pal if he continues to indulge in such talk. War means nuts and apples to them.

Twenty-five Russians arrived in Newcastle a few days ago, stating that they were going to work at Mr. John Brown's mines. Mr. Brown, when seen, was very indignant that the matter had been made a subject for newspaper comment. He said: "I won't say anything about it. Can't a man employ whom he likes?" Under private property and capitalism he certainly can, and it is useless for the local workers to grumble while continu-

ing to support those who keep the present system going. The Russians have as much right here as any of us have, and after Socialism is established, the worker will be welcome in any part of the world. Men like Brown will then be unable to take advantage by using the workers of one country against those of another.

During the last week or two, New Zealand's two million Dreadnought has been delighting the jingoes with her warlike appearance, and the racket she can make when firing a broadside. Each of her eight 12in. guns is 47 feet long. Each gun weighs 60 tons, and costs £13,000. Every time one of these guns is fired, it costs £60. When a broadside is fired it costs £480. On board there are 80 rounds per gun, so that the vessel can waste a lot of money in smoke. She carries 758 men, a much smaller complement than she requires, but, as Captain Halsey says, "there is a great lack of men in the navy at present," a remark which seems to indicate that the mighty fool-killer (Father Time) has not been idle during recent years.

Batches of defaulting cadets are still being severely dealt with in many large towns. At Parramatta recently a batch was fined £5 and costs, with a heavy alternative of gaol. Two of the boys defied the beak to do his worst. Several cadets at Broken Hill were severely dealt with, one being fined £7. A militarist momentum is setting in which threatens to carry all before it, yet the workers seem indifferent to what is coming.

Rough and drastic methods of dealing out the law appear to be in force at Darwin. At the last criminal session a jury's verdict was refused by the presiding judge, who threatened to commit the foreman for contempt.

Queensland "Worker" is rather rough on its own leaders when it says: "Capitalism runs the business of war for profit; consequently armaments must be kept up to meet the foreign foe, and in the making of slaughtering machines there is much blood. In connection with the war industry there are many whose incomes depend on its continuance and as a consequence there is a countless host of parasites who patriotically commend the evil trade because it fills their pockets. The warlike German nation is having a painful and costly experience of all this just now." Just so, and Australia is moving rapidly in the same direction with the approval of the Labor Party which the "Worker" supports.

Thus the Sydney "Daily Telegraph's" London correspondent:

"Once more we find the Socialists laying it down that war should cease. The deputies of France and Germany have issued a joint protest against the increased armaments of the two countries. But the events of this year have made it clear that organised labor has a long way to go before it can successfully resist the outbreak of international warfare. The Socialists' scheme is simplicity itself. What could be easier than for organised workers of France and Germany to refuse to assist in any way with the preparations for campaigning and the transport of troops, war material, and food supplies? National strikes could incapacitate great armies. The theory is good, but, unhappily, the martial spirit is stronger than the spirit of international brotherhood. Socialism has a long way to travel before the Socialists of two neighbouring Powers would trust each other sufficiently to make joint action effective. If Socialism cannot even prevent burdensome increase of armaments, it is childish to expect it to prevent an outbreak of war."

It is not so childish after seeing that in France and Germany the Socialists are doubling their numbers every few years, while other parties are dwindling. The same is true of all countries. William R. Winespear, 115 Goddard Street, Sydney.

When you have read this paper hand it to a friend.

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To grasp fully the teaching of Evolution is to pass from a condition of Egoistic isolation to one of universal brotherhood with the universe. Man is no longer to be treated as a solitary, isolated being in a world of dust and ashes.—*Henri Wall*.

Identity of Interests.

Impossible under the Wage System.

Until Labor overthrows the wage system there can be no peace.

In discussing the division of Labor's product between Capital and Labor, Karl Marx might be imagined to be sometimes forecasting the results of modern arbitration or rebutting the contention that the interests of Capital and Labor are identical. He says:—

"The more the one gets the less will the other get, and vice versa. Whenever a quantity is given, one part of it will increase inversely as the other decreases. If the wages change, profits will change in an opposite direction. If wages fall, profits will rise; and if wages rise, profits will fall."

The whole class struggle springs from this conflict of interests, and until the battle is won by Labor there can be no peace between Capital and Labor. Arbitration is impossible because no tribunal can adjudicate without offending one side or the other. No greater illusion ever existed than the alleged identity of interests between Capital and Labor. No such identity exists and the united actions of Capital against Labor proves that Capitalists know this fact. When Labor recognises this fact it will cease to follow ignorant leaders who sit with designing capitalists and their sly politicians and retainers at banquets and other functions specially devised to nobilitate them. No capitalist with an ounce of brain believes in such stuff as the identity of interests, and no working man with a grain of horse sense or self-respect will be fooled any longer by such rot.

How the Workers have been Enslaved

The working class have been enslaved in the past through their ignorance and lack of mental training. They have been prevented from acquiring knowledge by a class which always saw to it that their labor was so exhausting, and their time so fully taken up with grinding toil that they neither had the will nor the energy for mental improvement. Their masters, on the other hand, were carefully trained in colleges and universities to fit them for all the select positions in society. The one class grew up simple, trusting, honest, and robbed; the other sharp, dominating, unscrupulous, and piratical. When the workers know their weakness, they will set about gaining knowledge by reading Socialist literature. They will not be so eager to overwork and exhaust themselves in future as they have been in the past.

Karl Marx in analysing the various historical forms of labor shows that there is much similarity in them. Some of his paragraphs are wonderfully illuminating as witness the following:—

"On the basis of the wages system even the unpaid labor seems to be paid labor. With the slave, on the contrary, even that part of his labor which is paid appears to be unpaid."

"Take . . . the peasant serf, such as he, I might say, until yesterday existed in the whole East of Europe. This peasant worked, for example, three days for himself on his own field or the field allotted to him, and the three subsequent days he performed compulsory and gratuitous labor on the estate of his lord. Here, then, the field and unpaid parts of labor were sensibly separated, separated in time and space."

"In point of fact, however, whether a man works three days a week for him-

self on his own field and three days for nothing on the estate of his lord, or whether he works in the factory six hours daily for himself and six for his employer, comes to the same, although in the latter case, the paid and unpaid portions of labour are inseparably mixed up with each other, and the nature of the whole transaction is completely masked by the intervention of a contract and the pay received at the end of the week. The gratuitous labor appears to be voluntarily given in the one instance, and to be compulsory in the other. That makes the difference."

Under serfdom and wagedom, then, the workers have been robbed by men who lorded it over them while they passed an idle, extravagant, and sensual life. Now at last the international Socialist movement promises to put an end to the robbery for all time.

A War-plot that Failed.

In 1905-6 the Norwegian and Swedish armies, working men, of course, were ordered to the front to butcher one another. They were assembled at the national boundary, and everything was done to influence their hatred and excite their prejudices. Tens of thousands of homes were desolate. Fear was in the hearts of thousands of women and children of the working class. Reporters were present from all parts of the world to flash the news of the butchering around the earth. The capitalist class was delighted at the prospect, and gold-braided Commanders were ready to shout: "Form! Charge! Fire! Slaughter!" Everything was ready, when a curious thing happened. The workers, confronting each other said: "We working class men are brothers. Let us not slit the veins of our own class, simply to satisfy the vicious pride of snobbish masters. Let us save our own blood and tears." This international cry had a wonderful effect. It was like an illuminating flash of lightning at midnight, and men saw that they were brothers of the working class. They fraternised and felicitated each other, and sneered at the frowns of their commanders. Realising that the workers could not be made to butcher each other, the capitalists declared the war off, and the capitalist Press closed like an oyster and kept the news from its readers. Only the Socialist papers reported the sublime event.

SOME AMUSING VIEWS.

By Unconscious Humourists.

"If I were compelled," says Joseph Cook, "to write a recipe for the reduction of the present high cost of living in Australia, over and above the increase common to the world, I should say, the restoration of honest, economical, and efficient government throughout Australia."

With Joseph as Prime Minister, of course,

"The Government," says Prime Minister Fisher, "has established a Commonwealth bank. This is an institution which will prevent financial crises taking place in Australia in the future, as they have in the past."

Will it then keep the private bankers honest?

"The Worker": "At the present rate of increase, it is estimated that before the end of next year the population of the Sydney metropolitan area will exceed a million. This means a few more thousands to be added to the already enormous circulation of 'The Worker.' Advertisers please note."

At last we know why the Labor Party is rushing immigrants in.

Frank Benty, in "The Labor Call": "We Laborites may be a disloyal lot, but if we are we don't show it in our singing of the National Anthem. At the Eight Hours social, on the Saturday evening before the anniversary, the first strains of music to be heard were those of 'Gorsave,' and how they did try to lift the roof off the Hall with it."

The loyalty and patriotism of Laborites is unquestioned—except by the Liberals.

Regarding the Referenda, "The Labor Call" is delighted because "The Age" plumps for "Yes."

The Labor Party should take "The Age's" "Yes" as a vote of censure on its proposals.

A "Sun" cable from London says that it is understood in London that the Government of New South Wales proposes to resume immigration if successful at the next elections.

Willy Holman and Willy Watt have agreed on a joint campaign.

"The Worker" (Sydney): "The kind Kaiser considers the kiddies, and has in-

Senator Rae Defends Conscription.

A Reply to Mrs. Nicholson.

Do the most warlike nations survive?

Mrs. Nicholson's letter to the Labor Party, published in last issue, was put before the Federal Labor Party at a Caucus meeting. Senator Rae appears to have been the only member moved to reply, and as his letter briefly indicates what members are thinking, we have pleasure in giving it publicity with a few comments.

Glenorie, N.S.W.

Mrs. S. Nicholson, 35 Nicholson Street, South Yarra.

Dear Madam,

The Secretary of the Federal Labor Party received a letter from you, and it was brought before the usual Caucus meeting of the party, but through pressure of other business it was left to the Secretary to acknowledge.

I obtained your address from him, intending to reply to some of the statements your letter contained, but through pressure of other matters, it was overlooked, and I cannot now remember the substance of your remarks, except that they were in angry denunciation of the compulsory military training system. As a Socialist of many years standing, I have an instinctive dislike of all that pertains to militarism, yet I cannot help supporting the system with all its defects, not because my party supports it, but because the nations that won't fight or won't provide themselves with a highly trained defence force and up-to-date weapons go down before those who do. It is no use being civil and inoffensive to the stronger nations. It is simply the fable of the wolf and the lamb over again, and the strong and unscrupulous can always find an excuse for picking a quarrel with a weak and helpless one, especially if the weak ones own rich lands and desirable territory. The nations of Europe have all stolen slices of Chinese territory. Although China has 400 million people the little warlike Japan with 45 millions, knocks her out. Then again, Korea is swallowed up by Japan because she has no efficient army to defend herself. In quite recent times, Italy steals Tripoli from Turkey without a decent excuse, and while Turkey is weak from that war with Italy, the Balkan States attack her and burst her European Empire to pieces. So it is always, and everywhere, and the weak go down before the strong all over the world. Now if we are to have any defence force at all, we should have a good strong one, otherwise we are relying on a rotten stick. In a small population covering a big territory like ours, the only way to get a sufficiently strong force is to train everyone. Those who are willing to volunteer are not numerous enough, which has been proved for many years in every State in Australia. Then again, when we relied on a volunteer force, the greater part of the volunteers are related to the land owners and well-to-do classes, and all the officers practically were friends of Capitalism, and prepared to shoot the workers down on the flimsiest excuse. When all are drilled, and serve in the citizen forces, there will be more workers than employers to take a hand. All the same, I am strongly in favour of amending the Defence Act to provide that no member of the citizen forces can ever be called upon to serve against his Australian fellow citizens. That is, that the citizen forces shall be for defence against a foreign invader, and be used for no other purpose, I believe, Madam, that you complain bitterly of night drills, that I agree with you, but it is not the fault of the Ministry or Parliament. We could provide that all drills take place in the daytime, but we have no power to say that employers shall not stop wages

introduced war lessons to amuse, interest, and instruct the bloodthirsty boys of the Black Eagle brand."

What is Carmichael organising trips for schoolboys to battleships for?

Mr. Carmichael, New South Wales Minister for education says there is now complete mutual assistance between our schools and the military authorities."

Are the military authorities not capturing the schools? Is the military instructor to supersede the schoolmaster?

Queensland "Worker": "The members of the ruling class in all countries are blatant jingoes, and for the reason that it pays them to be so."

Does this refer to the ruling class in Australia?

William R. Winspear, 115 Goulburn-St., Sydney.

for lost time. To put that in the Defence Act would be unconstitutional, because it would be making laws in regard to trade, and we cannot legislate in any way affecting trade or commerce, excepting foreign trade. That is one strong reason why the proposed amendments should be carried at the Referenda next elections on the 31st May next. If carried, I, for one, would strongly insist on amending the Defence Act in that direction. I have taken the liberty of writing at length because I could tell by your letter that you felt you had a sincere grievance, and the secretary was too busy to deal with your complaints. There are of course many who honestly differ from me on these matters, but I trust that I have at any rate pointed to some of the points in favour of defence that are difficult to get over.

One other point is this: We are told by anti-militarists that Capitalists are at one with each other all over the world in using armed force to suppress the workers, and that it is all the same to us working classes who rules over us. But, is it? We have full political power now, rich and poor alike. We only lack the intelligence and organisation to use it in the interests of all to build up the best form of civilisation ever known on earth. No foreign nation which conquered us could give us more than that, and it is dead certain they would take away some, or all of that power, and so put back our progress for many years, perhaps centuries. But suppose we keep these powers and learn to use them so wisely that we make Australia a real paradise for the workers. Would not that be such a striking object lesson for those nations still under Capitalistic robber rule that they would gladly pick a quarrel with us if we were unable to defend ourselves that they might wipe out the anti-capitalistic form of civilisation we had built up?

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR RAE.

Labor Senator for N.S.W.

10th March, 1913.

In his reply to Mrs. Nicholson, Senator Rae tells us that although he has an "instinctive dislike to all that pertains to militarism," he cannot help supporting the compulsory military training system, "with all its defects," not because his party supports it, "but because the nations that won't fight and provide themselves with a highly trained defence force and up-to-date weapons go down every time before those who do."

This is the stock assertion of militarists and scaremongers, and no doubt Senator Rae has been caught with it before he has had an opportunity of thinking about it for himself. It would perhaps surprise him to find how little proof is available if he tried to prove what he asserts so cocksurely.

Napoleon was a great conqueror with highly trained forces and the best weapons of his day. Yet the nations which were inferior in military power that "went down" before him are most of them living yet. He met disaster in Egypt where he had inferior forces, with inferior weapons to meet. Egypt didn't go down, and, according to all accounts, is still going strong. He also invaded Russia, in his day an inferior fighting power, with out-of-date Weapons, and we know how he fared there. Russia refused to go down, and Bonaparte had to skedaddle home as best he could. And Russia is still alive.

Innumerable states were supposed to

have "gone down" before the Turk, and lately we have seen what some of the conquered states have done to Turkey. If the badly armed and badly trained nations "go down," the well armed and well trained ought to go up. But, do they? For four hundred years Turkey has been the most militarised nation in Europe and if any nation could have lived by conquest, and upon the conquered, Turkey ought to have been able to do this. She staked all upon the sword, and scorned industry, and lost. It was only a question of time for her to die by the sword, for in our day industrialised nations are sure to destroy the militarised ones.

Small states like Belgium, Switzerland,

and Denmark are in a better condition

than the neighbouring highly militarised

nations are. They have not "gone

down," and are not likely to do so until

international boundaries vanish, and the

working class of every country is united

in an international brotherhood.

Until 50 years ago Japan was not a

military power, and she did not go

down. In recent times she thought it

was the right thing to train and arm so

that she wouldn't "go down" before some

better trained and better armed nation

which was supposed to be lurking around

somewhere waiting a favourable oppor-

tunity to attack her. Since she has arm-

ed and become a military and naval power,

she has had a war, and the usual af-

ter has followed.

Now she is a military and naval power,

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A Trip to Frisco.

(By Wage Slave).

Some few months ago, having worked myself out of a job, I found myself in Sydney, and decided to make tracks for that land of the absolute bourgeois—the United States. I had no delusions about that country. But opportunities to travel do not come often to the wage slave, and I took this one. I soon made myself acquainted with the steerage of a steamer flying the scars and tripe, and I found class distinctions sufficiently clear to impress the dullest intelligence. The difference between first saloon and the steerage of that vessel could not be told in words, but I found that most of the steerage stiffs, instead of grasping the obvious facts, were aspiring to be capitalists themselves some day. On arrival in San Francisco I had a novel experience. Being physically weak, I was packed off to Angel Island, where all kinds of "undesirable" immigrants—Chinese, Japanese, anarchists, and jail breakers—are detained. I had become an international at last, and was one of the great working class which knows no distinctions of race. I found that the land of the free provides all kinds of good accommodation for the foreign stiff, and ventured to remark to one American citizen that we were treated better on Angel Island than the I.W.W. boys were in San Diego. He didn't at all like that, as he was what Americans call a "scissorbill," and started to talk law'norder. I was released at once from the island, and took up my abode in the city. The first place I looked up was the I.W.W. Hall, in 17th Street, and here I made myself known, and talked over the situation with many old war-

termath of debt, disaster, misfortune, and misery. She is steeped to the lips now in militarism and Mikado worship—two evils that generally go together.

Her great neighbour, China, one of the least militarised nations on earth, is also one of the oldest.

According to the theory we are considering, she should have been gobbled up by some fighting power long ago, but she wasn't. Instead, she is forging ahead towards freedom. She has outgrown the monarchial and military superstitions, while the superior Japanese and Australian grovel before both.

Senator Rae says it is no use being civil and inoffensive to the stronger nations. That is just where he makes a mistake. It is at all times useful and best to be civil and inoffensive towards stronger nations. To insult them by vaunting your superiority, to caricature them as apes, and to study ways of being brutally offensive is surely not the best way to cultivate a neighbouring nation's friendship. War is inevitable if two peoples seize every opportunity to provoke each other. In the absence of such provocation, wars are only inevitable in the sense that other forms of error and passion, such as religious persecution, for instance are inevitable. They cease as Norman Angell says, with better understanding, as the attempt to impose religious belief by force has ceased in Europe.

Senator Rae's citations in proof of his belief are unfortunate for him. He says: "The nations of Europe have all stolen slices of Chinese territory. Although China has 400 million people, little warlike Japan knocks her out." Does he, indeed? And seeing that Chinese merchants still hold and control the business of the country in the very areas said to be stolen from their country, where do the Japanese or the other nations gain by their alleged steal? Their steal was like the Briton's steal in the Transvaal. Britain lost a lot of money and men, but the Boers still have the country, and govern it. Before the Russo-Jap war Russia spent sixty millions in an attempt to colonise Korea, but the Chinese merchants captured the business, and people who were there before the war are there still. Japan's victory was like that of a man who gets a verdict at law with the costs given against him. The country is costing her more than she benefits from it.

"Italy steals Tripoli," we are told, as if Italy thereby had done a good stroke of business. But Italy's steal will be as costly to her as the steals of Britain, Japan, and Germany have been, and they will be as barren of result. And this brings us to the illusion which underlies the belief in benefits to be derived from conquest. Senator Rae believes that we are in danger of being attacked because he believes that some nation has something to gain by attacking us. But as this illusion needs a more extended treatment than space in this issue can afford, consideration of it must be deferred till next or some future issue.

William R. Wisppear, 115 Goulburn-St., Sydney.

riors of the class war. You may be sure I learned something.

My stay in the city lasted a little over a month, and whatever the impressions of a class-conscious working stiff during that short time may be worth, I will set them down.

I learned first that the class war in America is not a straight fight between capital and labour; it is largely a fight between the I.W.W. and craft unionism. The gulf between "skilled" and "unskilled" labour is wider than in Australia. Improved machinery is constantly undermining the craft unions, and you can always tell when an industry is "on the bum" by its membership in the I.W.W.

The great mass of labour in America is not in any union. The army of unemployed is immense. One is often stopped in the street by some unfortunate begging for a nickel (21), for coffee and doughnuts. The land of "coffee and" is not an inappropriate term. The segregation of the "fallen" (or knocked down) keeps them off the street, but one section of the city is simply a huge brothel. Just a few weeks ago a bill was passed closing down the "redlight" section. This was done in an effort to make the city clean for the world's fair, which is to be held there. The result will be that the women will be so spread about, that no self-satisfied capitalist will be able to ignore their presence. In fact, they cannot be ignored now. All over America there is going on a wave of anti-white slavery agitation, and the biggest white-slaver of America (John D. Rockefeller), is at its head. What does it mean? Why, that the capitalists are alarmed at the rising wave of working-class revolution, and like travellers caught on the plains of Russia, they are throwing the weakest—the pimp and the bludger—to the wolves.

I had the pleasure of hearing Joe Ettor, of Lawrence fame, speak in the Dreamland Rink, and will never forget it. There had been some kind of an entertainment in the hall on the previous night, and someone had left a huge American flag hanging there. As I looked at the flag, and gazed around at the huge crowd, my mind went back to a Sunday afternoon in Sydney Domain, when an appeal was being made to the workers to join in a world-wide protest against the imprisonment of Ettor and Giovanitti. The first thing that Ettor said was that he was fully aware that but for the power of the working class he might be lying that night in a grave dug by capitalism. Then he told us about the bitter fight in Lawrence; how the capitalists, when working hours were reduced, forced the workers to attend three machines in place of two, how when the strike was on, they used the police to plant dynamite in order to incriminate the workers. Speaking of sabotage, he pointed out how the capitalists themselves practised it, and advised the workers to use it.

There is undoubtedly a wave of revolution spreading over America. Large bodies of the working class are hostile to the Socialist propaganda—"scissorbills"—they are termed, patriots, and jingoists, who are ever ready to uphold the flag and defend John D's property. These "scissorbills" hate the foreigner like poison. One good thing about capitalist administration in America, is that the pure food regulations are far in advance of Australia. There is a stringency in this respect which puts Australia to shame. The American company railways also make a baggage allowance of 350 pounds, as compared with 112 in Australia, and have installed the automatic safety coupling device, which has prevented many accidents. Australian State capitalism is not the wonderful thing it is made out to be. Just at present, San Francisco is being boomed for the 1915 Panama Exhibition. People are being rushed in from all quarters, and work is being held off till the last moment, so that when the time comes, men will be working for next to nothing. When the Canal is opened, immigrants will be dumped in at a few dollars a head direct from Europe, and wages will be cut to the level of New York and Chicago.

The Difference.

"You might have the clerks back to-night," said the owner to a subordinate, as he buttoned up his coat to go home. "It is getting near the end of the month and the ledgers are behindhand."

"Shall I have the factory hands back also?"

"The factory hands!" roared the chief, getting very red in the face, "I should say not. Don't you know that they are well organised and will make us pay for overtime?"

Push "The International Socialist." Get subscribers.

Why the Referenda?

Is it Another Red Herring?

The time and attention of the workers should be centred upon bettering their conditions.

During the next few weeks the population of this vast island continent will be disturbed from their usual routine by the vociferations of politicians.

The masters and slaves alike in the metropolitan centres will pause awhile to hear the different brands of politicians deliberating upon their various panaceas for social ills. The denizens of the numerous country towns will be awakened into life by the cries of itinerant parliamentarians. The "man with the hoe" will not be neglected, but will be caused to raise his eyes from the ground and give his nods of approval or grunts of dissent to the various nostrums of political charlatans.

The dominant note being sounded throughout this Federal campaign is the Referenda—the amendment of the Constitution. Both parties have something of "very great significance" to say upon the six proposals. As to the seriousness and genuineness of the two parties upon this "very significant question" I will not waste time here to discuss. The party allegedly supporting labor is asking the people to vote "Yes" upon the six proposals, and give them more power. Their plea is that they are bound and shackled and unable to advance any farther. Whatever way they turn, the hobbles and the fetters prevent them from putting into execution their reforms. This is how the Labor Party explains their helplessness; and with outstretched hands and trembling voices, they appealingly ask the people of Australia to strike a blow in the form of "Yes" on May 31st and thereby deliver them from such impotency.

When one lets his mind run back over the last few years, and in a contemplative mood calls up the history of the Labor Party, what awful and appalling visions arise before his eyes. When one thinks of their Baby Army and their cruel and wicked treatment of such children; when one ponders over their action of goading strikers; the issuing summons to unions which supported strikes; the recruiting of seab labor; the special loads of police for disturbed industrial centres; their silence when appealed to to do something for starving men, women and children; and their strike-breaking tactics in general, it makes one very seriously think, if it would not have been much better if the Labor Party had been more heavily shackled and more lightly hobbled and thereby prevented from committing high treason to the working class.

The time and attention of the working class should be concentrated upon bettering their conditions, i.e. lessening the bosses' profits. This the Federal Referenda will fail to do. The exploited class have absolutely no time to waste upon parties or proposals that will not materially benefit them.

The mission of the toiling masses is to do away with Capitalism, and receive the full product of their toil. This the Labor party cannot do.

The downtrodden and disinherited of the earth have a long road to travel. The grey-lying road that stretches out before them, which leads all the way to emancipation, has got to be travelled. Time is too precious and the march too earnest to call a halt to deal with nonentities.

In the great working-class march towards Human Freedom, they must be vigilant and alert. The lamb-like leaders must be watched, for too often, when it is too late, a wolf has been discovered under the woolly covering. Before we pitch camp we must look out for snakes in the grass. There is heaps of work to do, and the goal is a long way off; so why waste time upon a political dodge labelled "The Referenda," which will not even fill our waterbags or replenish our knapsacks?

The official announcement of the Labor party is that they will "give a fair deal to everyone," "work on just terms," and loyally represent all classes. These arguments alone should be enough to sicken any live working man of the Labor party. There is only one class which the workers should look after. That is the class that contributes to life's necessities. How can we be "fair" to that class which robs and plunders the wealth which others produce? How can we deal on "just terms" with a crowd which murders and devours thousands of human lives every year? How can those who toil and slave amid the sweat and blood of this great industrial world support a party which says it will represent a gang of social vampires and human vultures which prey upon human flesh day by day? Our women are forced upon the streets

to sell themselves for bread; our children are compelled to enter the factory hells and industrial infernos to keep themselves from starvation; able-bodied men are driven to erime through want of food, and then are incarcerated for something over which they had no control. This the Labor party does not trouble about, and the Referenda will not affect.

Think of the mining disasters, the shipping calamities, the accidents in large workshops, and on plants, and then remember that every minute that goes by, day and night, some human life is sacrificed upon the altar of Capitalism. The very wheels of industry are dripping with blood; amid the buzz and roar of machinery one can hear voices crying out in despair. In Broken Hill alone the first three months of this year fifteen fatalities have happened, not to mention the many who have been crippled and injured. And the Labor party, which is asking for working-class support, says it is going to give the class which rules society to-day a "fair deal." Fisher and Co. are asking the workers to support the Referenda so that they may buy back from the masters that which our whole lives have gone to upbuild.

Past-history shows that whenever the slave-class showed signs of discontent the masters were always ready to draw a red-herring across the track and lead the malcontents off the right road, and get them excited about issues of no import. If that red-herring happened to be a political one so much the better for the masters.

Australia is now in a state of industrial discontent and turmoil. The workers are now beginning to organise industrially as was never known before. They are beginning to realise their class interests. Many unions are now agitating for unionist candidates to represent them in Parliament in place of the non-unionists that now predominate in the various P.L. Leagues. The Labor members seeing and hearing these portentous occurrences, have become agitated and disturbed. The question now arises: Are the Referenda another political red-herring?

We look around and we find that the Federal Governments of Canada, Germany, and Switzerland have all the powers that the Labor party are asking for. Are the workers in any of these countries in such a condition that Australians should wish to emulate them? In every one of these countries the unemployed army tramps the streets every day. They all have their poverty and misery; and the festering sores of Capitalism are apparent in all these lands. The master-class rob and exploit, and the slave-class offer up their lives to the monster of Capitalism.

We have read of late about the great strikes and industrial disturbances that have swept over Germany. The cables tell us of clashes between the workers and the capitalist class in Canada. And all who read know how the "Citizen Army" has shot down strikers in Switzerland. And in all these three countries the Governments, which are federal ones, have all the powers asked for by the Australian Labor party.

Let us now have a look at the proposals. No. 1 deals with "Trade and Commerce." How, if this proposal is carried, will it affect the working-class? What does it matter to the exploited if there is a law dealing with Trade and Commerce which will operate throughout the whole of the Commonwealth instead of being restricted to one State? A Commonwealth law instead of a State one, will not prevent the lying, cheating, bribery, and corruption which surrounds the whole of trade and commerce. So I think we can safely let Number 1 slip without any fear of disastrous results.

No. 2 deals with Corporations. Power is asked for that a law may be made to regulate and control corporations. How will this benefit those who toil? The working-class at all times get a subsistence wage, and it matters not to them whether they are robbed by twenty small companies, two or three large companies, or one trust. Parliament having a law to "regulate and control" companies will not alter the working-class condition one atom. So we can easily dispense with Number 2 without fear.

The third proposal deals with "Industrial Matters." The clauses say: "The rights and obligations of employers and employees." "To deal with strikes and lock-outs; the maintenance of industrial peace; and the settlement of industrial disputes." The above sentences are full of significance for the working class. We know how the Labor party has dealt with industrial disputes in the past; and now they are asking for more power. The industrial troubles are the direct outcome of this present industrial system and cannot be suppressed. It looks as if the members of the Labor party know this and are looking forward to a rich harvest in fines in the near future. Might as well try to smother an active volcano, as to try to prevent strikes. Industrial troubles are the children of Capitalism, and the only way to get rid of such a

family is to kill the parent that gives them birth. But the Labor party is not out to abolish Capitalism. If the workers vote upon this question there is every reason why they should vote "No," and prevent further tyranny. Proposal Number 4 deals with "Railway Disputes." The Federal Parliament having power to make any railway now belonging to the State, Federal property, does not concern the masses. The Commonwealth having power to regulate and control, to fix prices, freights, and fares, does not directly affect those who work for wages. Under this proposal the railway workers will have to submit all their troubles to a Federal Arbitration Court, and heavy fines would be inflicted if they dare to be so rash as to declare a strike. It is up to the railway workers to see that their disputes are settled without the degrading spectacle of marching to an Arbitration Court. As to this proposal, the railway workers have everything to lose and nothing to gain. The fifth proposal is to deal with "Trusts." Anyone who has only a smattering of political economy knows that the Trust is only the natural and inevitable outcome of Capitalism. To try and smash the trusts is like a child trying to keep back the tides. The Sherman Anti-Trust Act of America has most lamentably failed to destroy any of the Trusts. The million-dollar fines which have been inflicted upon John D. Rockefeller and others have never been paid. It is not to smash the trust but to build on the trust is what the Socialist says. The trust lightens labor, lessens toil, simplifies work, and does things in a more systematic and organized form. The whole trouble with the trust is that it is in the wrong hands. The workers must take control of it for themselves. I will not waste time in dealing further with this well-understood theme in a Socialist paper.

The sixth and last proposal is to "Nationalise Monopolies." The workers in a nationalised industry are no better off than those in a privately-owned concern. The Labor party propose to deal "fair" and buy out industries that they have decided to be a monopoly. The money will have to be borrowed, and the workers in nationalised concerns will still be working for wages and paying interest to bondholders. The capitalist-class would then be entrenched behind the Government, and living upon the interest they receive from the bonds, would be in a safer position than when they controlled industry themselves. The fights of the working class will be harder, because they will have to fight the Government, which will be backed by the financiers. Under nationalisation we would still have poverty and unemployment; we would still work for wages, and there would still be a class living on interest and profit by our toil. If nationalisation is anything very grand, why is ex-President Roosevelt—one of the foremost opponents of Socialism—advocating it?

It's not nationalisation which the Socialists are after, but Socialisation. There is a very great difference in the two systems. The former would be Capitalism and slavery; the latter would be Socialism and freedom.

The whole of the above six proposals could have been dealt with at far greater length, but space will not permit. It is sufficient to know that the two first clauses dealing with Trade and Commerce and Corporations, will affect the worker in no way whatsoever. So it matters not whether they are carried or not. The third, dealing with Industrial matters, does affect the workers, and it is their duty to oppose it, on account of the despotism it imposes. The fourth, dealing with Railway Disputes, should be opposed, because it would subject the railway workers to a more servile state of slavery than at present. The fifth, dealing with the Trusts, wants opposition on account of its very silly and ridiculous nature. The sixth, dealing with Nationalisation of Monopolies, should be objected to on account of the tyranny it would subject the workers to and the easy means of escape it offers to the capitalist-class. After summing up we are compelled to write the Referenda down as another political red-herring to befool the working-class. It behooves the "great unwashed" to leave Capitalist parties seriously alone and vote for Revolutionary Socialism and Emancipation.

NORMAN RANCIE,

Socialist Hall, Sulphide-street,
Broken Hill, N.S.W.

SYDNEY CLARION FELLOWSHIP.

As there must be many Clarionettes in Sydney, from the old country, we will be pleased to welcome them at our meetings, held on the first Saturday in every month, at 8 p.m., 196 Pitt-street, Sydney; or communicate with the Secretary, Mrs. M. Jones, "Lilford," Arthur-street, Marrickville.

When you have finished with this paper, pass it on to a friend.

An Appeal. To the Electors.

Bodies and souls your lords are buying;
Surely the calls of women dying
Can reach the caves where you abide?
The hour is crying, "Choose your side!"
In slams your children's cheeks are paling;
From landlords' threats your wives are
quailing;
Tentacles upon you glide—
The hour is waiting "Choose your side!"
Your corn and oil they are forestalling,
While o'er religion you are brawling,
And petty feuds your ranks divide—
The hour is calling, "Choose your side!"
With Mammon every road patrolling,
Our helpless millions need consoling;—
Would you desert us? Would you hide?
The hour is tolling, "Choose your side!"

Those four verses of an anonymous writer aptly sums up the position, and it is with pleasure that I pen a few words of appeal to the electors of New South Wales for them to choose their side at the forthcoming Federal elections.

The Socialist movement has again justified its existence by entering the contest of the Federal elections. The number of candidates running are few, but this is due to the restrictive legislation of this country, which compels us to pay the sum of £25 for each candidate nominated, and this in a country that boasts of free and universal suffrage, and under alleged Labor rule.

But in spite of this restrictive legislation we have managed to nominate four candidates: They are Com. T. Walsh, of the A.S.P., who is contesting the electorate of Cook; and Coms. T. Batho, J. O. Moroney, and H. Ostler, of the Socialist Labor party, who are contesting the Senate seats.

These candidates who are seeking your suffrages in the interests of Socialism come with no hypocritical programme of sham reforms or alleged palliatives; they promise you nothing more or less, if elected, than to fight in Parliament on the lines of the class struggle.

They have entered this campaign determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged Labor or avowedly Capitalistic. Their programme contains one demand—the socialisation of the means of production, distribution, and exchange, and only legislation in the interests of the working class will receive their support.

The opposing candidates on the Federal side offer the working class thug law and panic legislation in the form of Coercion Acts when you go out on strike.

They stand for the interests of private property, holding it more sacred than the lives of men women and children of the working class.

They stand for the dividing up of the wealth produced by your class, always forcing you, the producers, to accept the smallest share.

They stand for everything detestable to the human race, for everything against the education of the working class, for everything that will make the bonds of wage-slavery stronger, for everything against working-class solidarity, for everything that will prevent Liberty and Freedom for the human race.

They can never be on the side of the working class, natural and social conditions force them to be on the other side; it is their place, and class-consciousness they keep it.

In short, they have and will always in every phase of the class struggle stand and fight in the interests of the class which they belong to, morally, ethically, socially and organically the Ruling class; and for this they command neither blame nor praise.

The other candidates, the Laborites, offer you all kinds of sham reforms and alleged palliative legislation, such as the Referendums, National Bank, Restriction of Public Borrowing, Land Taxes, New Protection, which will only bolster up Capitalism.

They will tie up your industrial organisations with compulsory agreements, thereby making impossible working-class solidarity in times of industrial strife. They will give you thug law in the form of Industrial Arbitration Acts, which fine and gao you when you strike for better working conditions. They will spend millions of the wealth you create for an army and navy, their proposed expenditure this year for that purpose amounting to the huge sum of £5,000,000, or £1 1s per head of population. They will force your children to become soldiers by Conscription Acts; and if they refuse to serve they will by force detain your children in military barracks and gaols. No lower form of degradation than this can be conceived.

They will forever cry for peace, and the identity of interests between the ruling and working classes, when there can be no peace and no identity of interests so long as a system that produces millionaires and paupers remains in operation.

In short, with their treachery to the working class and the cowardly compro-

mise with the capitalist class, they have put the true working class movement back a score of years. They have played the game of politics and have been reduced to job-hunters and political rainbow-chasers.

The position then resolves itself into this: The Liberals stand uncompromisingly for the vested interests of the ruling class; the Laborites stand allegedly for the working class on one hand, and avowedly for the capitalist on the other. The Socialists stand for the working class in every phase of the conflict between the ruled and the ruling classes.

In conclusion, I would appeal to every class-conscious elector to array themselves on the side of Socialism on election day. A vote given to the Liberals or Laborites is a vote thrown away; a vote given to the Socialists is a vote used to advantage, and denotes working-class solidarity.

By voting the Socialist ticket, even if we do not win, you strengthen and build up a movement that will always and everywhere be on the side of the working class.

To those who have lost all faith in political parties, who think all parties alike, I appeal for their support because the Socialist party is the only party in the contest that belongs to, is of, and for the working class.

We want all votes to save our £100 deposit which we have been forced to pay to enter the contest; and to save that is sufficient gratification for all sympathisers, syndicalists and industrial unionists to use their votes.

I appeal to every class-conscious elector to remember on election day that a vote given to opponents of Socialism and a vote not used is a vote of treachery to the working class.

Just one word more: Money is the sinews of war, and the money found for the deposits at the expense of a few comrades must be replaced; and in this direction I appeal to all to send financial assistance to A. Duffield, Chadder-street, Marrickville, or this office for the Cook electorate campaign; and to J. O. Moroney, 16 George-street West, Sydney, for the Senate campaign.

H. L. DENFORD,

73 Windmill-street, Miller's Point.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

National Executive.

Branches can be represented by proxy delegates at the forthcoming annual Conference. The names of delegates should be forwarded at once to the undersigned.

The Annual Conference will take place on Monday, May 19. Further Business for Conference will be received up to Saturday, April 19.

Branches are requested to forward names of selected Candidates for the forthcoming Federal and State elections to the Administrative Council as soon as possible.

H. L. DENFORD,

8 Stephen's Buildings, Windmill-St.
Millers Point, Sydney

MELBOURNE BRANCH A.S.P.

On Sunday, April 27, Comrade J. W. Barry, who is at present acting as organiser for the Australian Freedom League, was the lecturer at the party headquarters.

Taking as his subject, "Conscription, and the Workers," our comrade demonstrated his worth as a propagandist, and made doubly clear the pitfalls and treachery of the Act. Unfortunately, the attendance was not as large as usual, but as it was due entirely to climatic conditions there is no reason to complain.

Propaganda meetings at Collingwood and South Melbourne on Friday evening lapsed, the weather again being responsible. Nevertheless we can record a good sale of literature for the week, and trust that all interested will take an active part in bringing our valuable little paper—ably edited by Comrade Winspeare—under the notice of all wage-slaves seeking economic salvation.

Comrade Mrs. McDonald also assures me that the attendance at the Sunday School has been the largest for some time. This, I feel certain, is extremely encouraging, and undoubtedly Mrs. McDonald is entitled to claim that the success is largely due to her efforts.

The usual Saturday dance held, boasted an increase in attendance, and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Comrades will also be pleased to learn that a new speaker has been enrolled in the person of Comrade H. Harris, late of Sydney (Newtown Branch A.S.P.). Comrade Harris will find plenty of speaking to do, and heaps of comrades ready to give him every encouragement.

Comrade Alex. Brodie and Mrs. Eddy were visitors at party headquarters during the week. Both comrades are valuable workers in the cause of freedom.

Although our branch held no meeting on the Yarra Bank on May 1, and there was no speech-making indulged in, nevertheless there was a fairly good attendance at party headquarters during the evening of the date in question, when songs were ably rendered by members and friends, and a most enjoyable evening spent.

The speakers at party headquarters on Sunday evenings are Mrs. McDonald (subject, "Panama Canal"), Finberg (subject, "A Review of Political Economy"), C. Menzies, and P. Laidies.

Mr. Joseph McCabe who was invited to lecture under our auspices, regrets his inability to do so at present, but says he hopes to be able to place his services at our disposal on his return journey. This our branch will keep in mind.

J. R. WILSON, Sec.

DARWIN.

(By Telegraph.)

6th May, 1913.

(Editor "International Socialist.")

Men on strike here for living wage. Want financial assistance. Executive has not granted same. We are fighting an unequal task. Private employers are willing to grant demands, but Administrator will not. Government officials working boats in place of strikers. Make widely known as possible, as to lose would spell destruction to unionism here.

Later.—Darwin branch deserted by Executive but still fighting, by order Strike Committee.—Riley, Sec. A.W.U. Darwin.

(In connection with these telegrams from Darwin, workers there should note that some of the Labor papers they wire to are faking the news to shield the Labor Government and the Administrator.)

William R. Winspeare, 115 Goulburn-st., Sydney.

Balmain.

A Social and Dance will be held at the Temperance Hall, Montague-St., (near the Town Hall), Balmain, on Sat. May 31. Tickets 1s. Ladies Free. Refreshments.

Comrades Sloan and Jones held a good meeting at Rozelle on Sat. night.

Newtown.

Election Notice.

Comrade TOM. WALSH having been Nominated by this branch to contest the Federal Electorate of Cook all comrades and sympathisers are asked to attend his meetings to assist in every way to secure his return.

Socialists and others against compulsory military training are asked to assist by sending along their contributions to our fund to contest Cook Federal electorate.

A. DUFFIELD,
Secretary,
Chadder-St., Marrickville.

SYDNEY BRANCH A.S.P.

Conference Delegates.

A welcome will be tendered to Conference Delegates at the rooms of the International Socialist Club, on Sunday, May 18, at 7.15. Branch Secretaries are requested to notify all Delegates.

Adelaide comrades will be pleased to learn that "Sydney Partridge" is coming from Sydney to Adelaide, though we on our side are not so well pleased to lose her. She is one of Australia's front-rank story writers, and unlike many of the inky brigade does not hide her Socialist principles. Before she left she dropped some hundreds of copies of a small 4 pp tract entitled "Revolt" into our office, which are being circulated by post amongst country comrades. Those who indulge in story reading should get her "Rocky Section" from the Bookstall Company. They will find it one of the most interesting of Australian stories. We wish the talented authoress a good time wherever she is.

Omission.

In our report of May Day celebrations in last issue, the name of the I.W.W. Club was omitted by accident from those taking part.

Press and Maintenance Fund.

Already acknowledged £45 14s 3d. Collected at Club Social 6s 3d. Proceeds from May Day celebrations £3 18s 2d. J. H. Corbett Is. Total £49 19s 8d.

International Socialist Club,

274 Pitt Street, Sydney.

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Best Socialist Library in the Commonwealth.

5s. per Quarter.

O. BLANC, Secretary.

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